September 14, 2021

Dear Colleague,

We are seeking prospective faculty supervisors to submit a proposed research project for a medical student in the Graduate Diploma in Health Research (GDipHR) Program.

GDipHR is a 20-month longitudinal program which aims to engage medical students in a mentored research experience and graduate level coursework with the intent to develop knowledge and skills that will support a future career in health research. Components of the Program, which has superseded the former CREMS Research Scholar Program, are outlined in the attached GDipHR Supervisor Commitment Form that you are asked to sign and submit, accepting the GDipHR Program requirements in the event that you supervise a selected student.

Please submit proposed research projects on the attached Supervisor and Project Information Form (by email only) to gdip.hres@utoronto.ca by October 15, 2021. The GDipHR Program Website provides one location for interested student applicants to view research opportunities.

The supervision of such students can be beneficial to faculty in multiple ways. They are very bright and accomplished; many will go on after graduation, GDipHR in hand, to do further research training as Residents, Fellows and/or graduate students on their way to eventual faculty positions as clinician-scientists. In seeking supervisors for such training, they will naturally consider applying to faculty they have encountered during their GDipHR. But before then, they will contribute to the environment and productivity of their supervisors’ research programs, bringing fresh perspectives and a quest for eventual applicability of their results to the clinical arena.

GDipHR offers important advantages to the students as well. Students completing the GDipHR Program receive a Diploma and it is recorded on their academic transcript. For those who have not had any previous research experience, completion of the GDipHR will offer graduate level training and an additional U of T credential without prolonging the time required to receive their MD degree. It will provide exposure to cutting edge health-related and translational research by world-class Graduate Faculty from the U of T from a broad range of disciplines and research methodologies. It will also provide advantages in competition for future advanced training positions. For those who have already completed graduate research training before starting the MD Program, it will permit them to remain current in research and perhaps to explore new areas and approaches while completing their MD in the standard four academic years.

This request is addressed to prospective GDipHR research project supervisors.

After identifying a project of interest, students are strongly encouraged to meet with the prospective supervisor, to ensure that they have a clear understanding of what will be involved in undertaking the proposed research project, and to get some sense as to whether the prospective supervisor will accept to supervise them should they be selected by the GDipHR Program. Students will have until November 5, 2021, to submit a complete application package. By December 6, 2021, successful applicants will be notified of their selection and will be required to obtain the written commitment of the faculty member to supervise their specific research project in GDipHR no later than December 15, 2021.

Please make sure to read the GDipHR Program Website to familiarize yourself with the supervisor eligibility requirements as well as the roles and responsibilities for project supervisors and students.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Catharine Walsh, MD, MEd, PhD, FRCPC
Director, GDipHR
gdip.hres@utoronto.ca